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RESOLUTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF ECE

Note by the Executive Secretary

Each year ECE contributes to reports requested by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly. Pursuant to resolutions/decisions adopted by ECOSOC at its 1995 and 1996 sessions, ECE will prepare three reports and contribute to the preparation of 16 reports to be submitted to the 1997 session. At the time of preparation of this note, requests deriving from the fifty-first session (1996) of the General Assembly for reports to be submitted to the Assembly's fifty-second session had not been communicated. However, it is to be noted that ECE prepared one report and contributed to 16 reports submitted to the fifty-first session of the Assembly.

This requires considerable time. In the context of global reform, member countries may wish to give consideration to streamlining the reporting mechanism and to the effective use of these reports.

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1. This note provides summary information on the relevant resolutions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly since the fifty-first session of the Commission which have required or will require action by the Commission.

2. The attention of member countries is drawn to the fact that requests from ECOSOC and the General Assembly demand significant coordination and drafting time by the Office of the Executive Secretary as well as the time of the Divisions.

3. Thus far, these reports do not seem to have been used fully in the information and coordination mechanisms at the global level. Since the regional commissions are at the cross-roads between a top-down and a bottom-up approach, these reports should be conceived first as instruments which convey to other regions or global entities the achievements of ECE which could be of interest to them. Secondly, the reports should demonstrate how ECE discharges intergovernmental mandates adopted at the global level.

REPORTS PREPARED BY ECE

4. ECE reports directly each year to ECOSOC. In addition to submitting its own report, in 1997, it is expected that the Commissions will be requested to report on the follow-up to world Conferences and on reform in the Commissions.

5. Pursuant to ECOSOC decision 1996/301, ECE will also prepare a report on the periodicity of amendments to the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods. In this connection, it should be noted that ECOSOC endorsed, at its resumed session in November 1996, the full membership of Australia and Spain in its Committee of Experts. As requested by ECOSOC resolution 1995/48, ECE and ECA will prepare a report on the Europe/Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar.

6. ECE prepared, in cooperation with all concerned entities of the United Nations system, the World Bank and the IMF, the report of the Secretary-General on the Integration of economies in transition into the world economy. Pursuant to resolution 49/106, this report was presented to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session. A similar report will be prepared for the fifty-third session in 1998.

INPUTS PROVIDED BY ECE FOR THE PREPARATION OF REPORTS

7. ECE has been requested to provide inputs to 17 reports for the 1997 session of ECOSOC (see Annex I). At the time of preparation of this note, requests deriving from the fifty-first session (1996) of the General Assembly for reports to be submitted to the Assembly's fifty-second session had not been communicated, however it should to be noted that ECE prepared one report and contributed to 16 others submitted to the fifty-first session of the Assembly (Annex II).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

8. In addition to the preparation of reports, a number of resolutions call for follow-up action or specific activities. For example, Assembly resolutions concerning follow-up to United Nations global conferences and Summits have requested the regional commissions to strengthen the inter-agency consultative arrangements at the regional level so as to develop regional monitoring and other activities in support of objectives set forth by the UN global conferences.

9. Assembly resolution A/51/L.55 on the Implementation of the World Summit for Social Development renewed the invitation to the regional commissions, within their mandates and in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and banks, to convene on a biennial basis a meeting at a high political level to review the progress made. The General Assembly welcomed the invitation of the Government of Austria to host a regional follow-up meeting in Vienna at the beginning of 1998. The ECE will hold consultations to ascertain its role in the organization of this meeting.

10. Assembly resolution 50/107 on the Eradication of poverty proclaimed 1996 as the International Year of the Fight Against Poverty, as well as the First UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. ECE marked the International Year by organizing in November 1996, in cooperation with the American Association of Retired Persons and the United Nations Population Fund, a workshop devoted to social protection, poverty and older persons at risk. The recommendations of the workshop were reported to ECOSOC through the Commission on Social Development.

11. Many other Assembly resolutions, such as that relating to cooperation with the business community, are relevant to the work of ECE although they do not specifically mention the regional commissions. Accordingly, the ECE secretariat monitors Assembly resolutions in order to take the appropriate action and, as mentioned above, to provide as required substantive inputs for reports by the Secretary-General.

ANNEX I

LIST OF 1997 ECOSOC REPORTS
REQUIRING PREPARATION OR INPUTS BY ECE

Resolution number	Title	Agenda item	Department or Office
1995/48	A Europe/Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar	30	ECA/ECE
1995/53	Consumer protection	16	DPCSD
1996/1	Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (E/1996/28)	6(a)	UNEP
1996/2	Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development (E/1996/25)	6(f)	DESIPA
1996/6	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (E/1996/26)	5(e)	DPCSD
1996/7	Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the future role of the Commission for Social Development (E/1996/29)	5(f)	DPCSD
1996/31	Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations (E/1995/1.25 and Corr.1)	10	DPCSD
1996/34	System-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 (E/1996/1.3)	5(e)	DPCSD
1996/41	Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227; initiation of reviews (E/1996/L.50)	3(b)	DPCSD
1996/43	Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions (E/196/1.48)	4(b)	DPCSD
1996/44	Coordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of energy (E/1996/L.40)	6(e)	DPCSD

Resolution number	Title	Agenda item	Department or Office
1996/45	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (E/1996/L.35 and E/1996/SR.52)	6(h)	DHA
1996/46	Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/1996/L.41 and E/1996/SR.52)	7	RC
1996/49	Integration of key minerals issues into the implementation of Agenda 21 (E/1996/L.32)	6(d)	DPCSD
1996/50	Integrated water resources development and management (E/1996/L.29)	6(d)	DPCSD
1996/243	Report of the Commission for Social Development on its special session of 1996 and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-fifth session of the Commission (E/1996/29)	5(f)	DPCSD
1996/258	The right to development (E/1996/L.18 and Add.1)	5(d)	HR
1996/301	Periodicity of amendments to the recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods (E/1996/L.52)	6 (a)	ECE
1996/306	Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Committee (E/1996/31)	6(d)	DPCSD
1996/310	Mainstreaming of gender perspectives into all policies and programmes	4(a)	DPCSD

ANNEX II

LIST OF REPORTS TO THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUIRING PREPARATION OR INPUTS BY ECE

49/100	Programmes related to island develcping countries
49/106	Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy
50/18	Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic
50/58E	Economic assistance to states affected by the implementation of the Security Council resolution imposing sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
50/81	World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
50/95	Assistance in mine clearance
50/95	International trade and development
50/97	Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries
50/112	Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification
50/116	Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
50/119	Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation
50/120	Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations System
50/126	Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
50/130	Communication for development programmes in the United Nations System
50/141	International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages
50/161	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development
50/203	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for action